

# **Should a Christian "renounce" his former activity in the occult after he is saved?**

by Danny Lirette

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There's a teaching within the visible church today that demons and/or bondages can "attach themselves" to Christians who once practiced the occult, went to psychics, etc. The idea is that unless the Believer "renounces" what they did as a non-Believer that they can and most likely will be "in bondage" to certain behaviors, etc. The question we must ask is this: "Is it Biblical or commanded in the Word of God to renounce past occultic activity?"

No.

Freedom in Jesus Christ does not come through "renouncing" what one is already cleansed of. Scripturally, there is no basis for "renouncing" our past. Why? Because we do not "have" a past once we repent, place our faith in Jesus and are water baptized. In fact, the Word is clear:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Old things - and this includes any occultic activity! - are "passed away". How many things have become new? "All things".

To bring this point home, that you do "not" need to "renounce" former wicked practices once you're saved, let's turn to Acts:8-9-13 which says:

"But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done."

Simon was "not" told to go through a list of former occult practices and "renounce" them. Did Philip the Evangelist forget to tell him that unless he "renounced" his former occult practices that he'd be in bondage until he did renounce them? I don't think so. Philip preached Christ and that was sufficient.

There was no addition to the message of the Gospel; the Gospel itself is more than able to save, heal “and” deliver!

If renouncing former occultic practices is indeed what God wants His People to do after they are saved, we would have absolutely seen such an example in Acts 8. After-all, Simon was not only involved in the occult, he was a practitioner of it! If anyone needed to renounce anything, it was Simon. Yet, is not told to renounce anything related to his former practices. Why? Because the Blood of Jesus, when appropriated, is powerful enough to save a man and deliver him from bondage. No “5 steps to renouncing your past” needed.

Brothers and sisters, if you’ve been told that the issues in your life are related to not “renouncing” former practices prior to your Salvation, ask a simple question to those teaching you such nonsense: “Can you show me this in the Word?”

Regardless of the argument put forth, if it cannot be found practiced in the New Covenant, reject such false theology as not of God. Those who teach the “renounce it!” doctrine have no Biblical defense for their practice. They may claim that “God showed them” and use all sorts of clever lines to explain why you’re still in bondage but it all comes down to one question: “Can you show me this in the Word?”

They cannot... because it’s not in the Word. Therefore, we must not become involved with such ministries that look for the occult in every life issue. Rather, we must pray for these blinded souls that they would come to the knowledge that the Blood of Jesus Christ is able to save to the uttermost without these man made gimmicks of “renouncing”. Simon, who was a practitioner of black magic, was not told to renounce... so why are “you” being told to renounce? Avoid such teachings and instead put your faith in the truth of Scripture, that you “are” new and that old things “have” passed away.

In doing so, you will be honoring the Blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on Calvary rather than allowing gimmick-riddled Christians to keep deceiving you into believing the Cross isn’t enough.